

January 18/Day 18

Genesis 19

Verses 1-11

- What time of day do the two angels arrive in Sodom?
- Who is Lot? Do you remember?
- You'll see city gates mentioned a great deal in Scripture. Walls and gates provided defense for the city and the city gates were meeting places for transacting business and receiving public announcements. This is the first mention of a city gate in the Bible.
- Where did Lot invite the men to spend the night? Did they comply?
- In verse 4, how many men of the city surrounded Lot's house? Both young and old? From all over the city?
- What did they want with Lot's visitors?
- How did Lot describe what the men wanted?
- Lot offers his virgin daughters instead. This is hard for us to understand, but why do you think Lot made this offer?
- What do the men say Lot is acting like? How did they threaten to treat Lot because of it?
- How did the two men rescue Lot?
- Did being struck blind stop the men from trying to get in?

Verses 12-14

- What do these verses tell us about Lot's family?
- What were the two men about to do to Sodom?
- Who sent them to destroy it?
- In ancient days, engagement was a contract and a person was considered married prior to the consummation of marriage. Here we find Lot's daughters were engaged. Where would their husbands have been raised? Did Lot's sons-in-law take him seriously when he said the LORD was about to destroy the city?

Verses 15-22

- How many daughters did Lot have?
- If they didn't escape the city, in what would they be swept away. What word is used?
- Did Lot take their advice right away?
- Why did the men seize his and his family's hands?
- What is compassion? What do we learn about God here?
- What action is connected with lovingkindness?
- Psalm 36:7, "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings."
- Romans 2:4, "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" It's God's

kindness, not His condemnation, that leads us to repentance. Repentance is a change of mind (or a change of thinking) which results in a change of direction. That direction could be a change in how we think about and respond to His truths or it could be a change in behavior.

- Into which small town did Lot escape?

Verses 23-26

- What rained on Sodom and Gomorrah? Who caused this?
- Brimstone is sulfur.
- What happened to Lot's wife? If God can create the world, can He turn someone into a pillar of salt? There is a pillar of salt near the Dead Sea which bears the name "Lot's Wife".

Verses 27-28

- Meanwhile, what did Abraham do when he arose early in the morning?
- What did he see?

Verse 29

- According to this passage, why was Lot saved? ("and" is the key)

Verses 30-38

- Initially Lot had stated he was afraid to live in the mountains, but where do we find him now? Why do you think he was afraid to stay in Zoar? Could it be because Zoar was close to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?
- What idea did the first-born daughter have in regard to preserving Lot's family?
- What happened to both of Lot's daughters?
- Remember the Moabites and the Ammonites for later. It's important to remember who they are.

Genesis 20

Verses 1-7

- What did Abraham say here that we have heard him say before about Sarah?
- What did God tell Abimelech in a dream?
- Why is it important to not that Abimelech had not come near Sarah? What was God about to establish in regard to the covenant promise? (Note: Previously, Sarai had been barren when pharaoh took her into his house.)
- Did Abimelech bear any guilt in this situation?
- Who did God say kept Abimelech from sinning against God?
- What instruction does God give Abimelech?

- What does God call Abraham here? Do you see how the Bible is a progressive revelation? Yesterday we saw how God chose to tell Abraham before the destruction of Sodom. Remember the verse from Amos? Amos 3:7, “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.” Today we see God confirm Abraham is a prophet.
- What would Abraham do for Abimelech? Isn’t it ironic? He is the reason Abimelech is in this predicament.

Verses 8-18

- Does it appear Abimelech has a respect and a healthy fear of God?
- Abraham said he thought they would kill him because of his wife. Remember, Scripture said Sarah was beautiful. What emotion was Abraham experiencing both here and in Egypt that caused him to tell this half-truth (because Sarah was his half-sister)? Nevertheless, a half-truth is a whole lie.
- What had God done to the household of Abimelech that was healed once Abraham prayed?

Genesis 21

Verses 1-7

- What happened to Sarah in this passage? How important now is it to know that Abimelech never touched her? And if we aren’t sure, God tells us she bore a son to whom?
- In whose timing did this happen? What word is used?
- What did they name the child? Isaac means “He will laugh”. Do you remember what both Abraham and Sarah did when they heard the news that they would be parents in their old age?
- On what day was he circumcised?
- How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? Do you remember how old he was when he first received God’s promise of an heir? Would it be difficult to keep the faith when the promise wasn’t fulfilled for 25 years?

Verse 8

- What happened on the day Isaac was weaned?

Verses 9-14

- Had you remembered Ishmael and Hagar have been with them all this time, or had it slipped your mind?
- What was Ishmael doing to Isaac?
- What did Sarah demand of Abraham?
- Depending on the age of Isaac when he was weaned, Ishmael could’ve been between 17-19 years old. He was Abraham’s first-born son, so how does it say Abraham felt about this? How would you feel?

- Spiritually speaking, why could the son of the servant-woman not share an inheritance with the son of the promise?
- Observe Galatians 4:21-31:
 “Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking, for these *women* are two covenants: one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. For it is written,
 “REJOICE, BARREN WOMAN WHO DOES NOT BEAR;
 BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR;
 FOR MORE NUMEROUS ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE
 THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND.”

And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the Scripture say?

“CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON,
 FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH
 THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN.”

So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

- Hold onto this. We will see more later. It may seem harsh, but there is purpose and spiritual significance.
- Again, God reiterates that Isaac is the son through whom the promise was made. Through Isaac, Abraham’s descendants will be named. Does God remember Ishmael, though, as well?

Verses 15-19

- Why did Hagar weep? Who else was crying?
- Who called out to Hagar?
- Have we seen God have compassion on Hagar in the past? Whom did He send?
- God heard the voice of the lad. Ishmael means “God listens”. Look at the name, “The God who hears” is el shama, do you see this in the name, Ishmael? Remember “-el” is God, do you see “shama”?
- What does God promise to do with Ishmael?
- What did God provide to sustain them?

Verses 20-21

- What did Ishmael become?
- Where did he live? We will see the Israelites wander here later.
- Where did Ishmael get a wife?

Verses 22-24

- Who was Phicol to Abimelech?
- Abimelech and Abraham make a covenant to deal truthfully and kindly with each other.
- Of what did Abraham complain?

Verses 27-34

- When have we seen a covenant made like this previously?
- What did the seven ewe lambs represent?
- Beersheba was the largest of the cities in the Negev, often referred to as the capitol, and its name means “seven wells”.
- To where did Abimelech and Phicol return?
- Abimelech is a common title among Philistine kings, like Caesar was in Rome, or Herod in Israel. So now we know Abimelech was a Philistine.
- We see another name for God here, elolam, “The Everlasting God”. Olam means time, age, antiquity. God transcends time. He has always been. Revelation 1:8, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the LORD God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” And Hebrews 7:3 (of Melchizedek), “Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.” Does the mention of Melchizedek from yesterday make a little more sense now?

I hope you are enjoying it as Scripture builds upon Scripture. See you tomorrow.